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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 2, 1962

TO: The Vice President

FROM: Colonel Burris

RE: U. N. Debate on Cuba

With the possibility that the subjects of Berlin and Cuba will be debated in the U. N. General Assembly, a curious and perhaps challenging issue may confront the U.S. The Soviets may be expected to take the line that while we contend that we cannot tolerate the Communist bases in Cuba which threaten the U.S., we are at the same time guilty of maintaining bases in Europe which threaten the Soviet Union. Certain European leaders feel that such a Soviet line would find a receptive audience in the curious atmosphere presently prevailing in the U.N. In fact, some of the newly independent nations and unaligned nations might vigorously support such a move.

On the Berlin issue there is a body of opinion which feels that the Soviets will attempt to establish the thesis that allied rights in Berlin stemming from the German defeat have long since been overtaken by events and a new status must be negotiated. Such a proposal again would have considerable appeal, and the U.S. while maintaining the right to keep troops in Berlin, could not be completely inflexible and would have to alter the present policies somewhat while retaining basic rights.

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